



MILL VALLEY
FILM FESTIVAL

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A Wealth of Bay Area Filmmakers at the 32nd Mill Valley Film Festival

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (September 23, 2009) — The **32nd Mill Valley Film Festival (October 8–18)** is proud to turn the spotlight on its rich and diverse local filmmaking community. The program features inspiring neighborhood documentaries, engaging narratives shot by the Bay and an impressive array of works from up-and-coming film students.

This year's MVFF documentary program includes a veritable bounty of highly acclaimed local talent.

Awakening from Sorrow: Buenos Aires 1997 (John Knoop and Karina Epperlein), a 40-minute film examining a crucial moment in Argentine history, has its world premiere at the Festival, as does ***Inside Story*** (Jacob Simas), which chronicles the rise and fall of California's historic prison press. In addition, Niall McKay brings us the North American premiere of ***The Bass Player: A Song for Dad***, a witty homage to his jazz musician father. ***Jim Thorpe: The World's Greatest Athlete*** (Tom Weidlinger) takes a warm and personal look at the bigger-than-life character who overcame prejudice through sheer strength of personality. Also in the program are traveling sun-gazers in ***Eat the Sun*** (Peter Sorcher); determined pet owners in Geralyn Pezanoski's ***MINE***; freewheeling sculptures and outrageous musical experiments in ***TRIMPIN: the sound of invention*** (Peter Esmonde); and ***Hidden Bounty of Marin: Farm Families in Transition*** (Steve Quirt and Ellie Rilla), an intimate exploration of farming and ranching in Marin County.

Academy Award® winning West Marin-based filmmaker John Korty's latest documentary, a lyrical meditation entitled ***Miracle in a Box: A Piano Reborn***, is included in this year's program along with William Farley's vivid portrait ***Shadow and Light: The Life and Art of Elaine Badgley Arnoux***, Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman's highly anticipated ***Soundtrack for a Revolution***, about the music associated with the Civil Rights movement and Michelle Esrick's ***Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy Movie***, a lively, loving portrait of the gentle Berkeley-based trickster. Glenn Silber and Claudia Vianello's inspiring 1985 documentary, ***Troupers***, will be presented in celebration of the San Francisco Mime Troupe's 50th anniversary. Will Parrinello's latest project ***Mustang - Journey of Transformation***, about the restoration and transformation of the isolated Forbidden Kingdom of Mustang, screens with **A**

Thousand Suns, produced by San Rafael's Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee, and ***Trading Bows and Arrows for Laptops***, a short film from Berkeley filmmaker Denise Zmekhol. Filling out the local documentaries in the program are ***Winnebago Man*** (Ben Steinbauer), whose writer/editor/producer Malcolm Pullinger resides in San Francisco; ***Breath Made Visible*** (Ruedi Gerber) whose subject is Anna Halprin, the celebrated Marin County artist and dancer; ***Project Happiness*** (John Sorenson), which follows a group of high school students trying to understand happiness; ***Race to Nowhere*** (Vicki Abeles), an examination of the pressures faced by American schoolchildren in an education system that values results over learning and Rick Goldsmith and Judy Ehrlich's inspiring political thriller ***The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers***.

The Festival's narrative section is showcasing key locations in the Bay Area with Dia Sokol's new comedy, ***Sorry, Thanks***, shot entirely in the Mission District of San Francisco, and Michael Anderson's dramatic feature ***Tenderloin***, filmed in the heart of the picture's title neighborhood. Berkeley's Rob Nilsson creates an amalgam of direct action and traditional filmmaking with his latest narrative, ***Imbued***, telling the story of a gambler and lost call girl who share an evening together. In addition, ***Faeries of Farthingale***, a magical tale by Marin filmmaker and dancer Melinda Darlington-Bach, will be featured in the 15th Annual Children's FilmFest.

The always popular 5@5 short-film series features an array of intriguing local films, including ***Lucha*** (Maria Breaux), which illustrates a couple reimagining their life together in a war torn El Salvador; ***Immersion*** (Richard Levien), about a ten-year-old immigrant struggling to fit in; ***The Legend of Toilet-Seat Charlie*** (Jeremy Kaller), celebrating Mill Valley's own rock'n roll dreamer and Terrie Samundra's intimate look at a young friendship in ***Kunjo***. The Festival will also showcase Theo Rigby's ***Close to Home***, about a father that has yet to deal with the death of his son, and a daughter who is looking for the father she once had, in our 5@5 short-doc program along with ***Arresting Ana*** (Lucie Schwartz), which looks at the potential criminalization of the pro-anorexia movement in France.

Local young filmmakers have plenty to offer as well in this year's Youth Reel. The program, entitled **[Blank.]**, chosen by the Young Critics Jury, includes six student projects produced through arts programs at Santa Rosa High School, Marin School of Arts and Tamalpais High School. The lineup includes ***Art?*** (Julia Black); ***Harrison Bergeron*** (Jacob Whiton, Avi Ballo and Jaycob Bellochio); ***I'm Not My Tights*** (Taylor Forster); ***The Natural World*** (Luke Jacobson); and two films from Joe Montoya, ***Don't Waste Water*** and ***Marin School of the Arts Public Service Announcement***.

California Film Institute

The California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through the presentation of the Mill Valley Film Festival and year-round exhibitions at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, and by building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. For more information visit cafilm.org or call 415.383.5256.

32nd Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 32nd Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 8–18, 2009 at the CinéArts@Sequoia (25 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael) and other venues throughout the Bay Area. Tickets are \$12.50 (CFI Members, \$10) unless otherwise noted and are available for purchase on September 20–23 for CFI members only, and beginning on September 24 for the general public. Regular tickets may be purchased online at mvff.com. For additional information, please visit mvff.com or call 877.874.MVFF.

Sponsors

As a nonprofit arts organization, MVFF relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the festival, but also the year-round programs of the California Film Institute. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundation, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 32nd year. CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, and the continued major support of the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Gruber Family Foundation, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Marin Community Foundation, the Zecca Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are also fortunate to have the continued contributions of the following Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Qantas Airways, Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Frantoio Ristorante and Olive Oil Co., Zaentz Media Center/Wareham Development, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), and CFI Membership Sponsor, Wells Fargo. Longtime friend and dedicated supporter of the festival, Bellam Self Storage & Boxes, is also returning as a major sponsor, and will be receiving this year's Distinguished Sponsor Award.

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